

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 490

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former Senator Larry Trail of Rutherford County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of former State Senator Larry Trail, who had won election to a Circuit Court judgeship less than three weeks before his sudden death; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Rutherford County where he was a highly respected member of the Murfreesboro community, Larry Trail was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on September 28, 1952, to Hershel and Laura Trail, Larry Trail was a native of the Hollow Springs community of Cannon County; and

WHEREAS, a 1970 graduate of Woodbury Central High School, young Larry was active in all aspects of the 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America, having grown up on a dairy farm; he would later own and operate farms in Cannon/Coffee counties, raising beef cattle, hay, and wheat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trail received his Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1975, and in 1977, obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law; he was an active participant in an assortment of school programs and organizations while a law student and received a number of esteemed honors and awards; and

WHEREAS, a prominent attorney in Murfreesboro since February of 1978, he operated a law practice, Trail and Trail, with his wife, the former Sandra Young of Bedford County; his practice was primarily focused on civil litigation, employment matters, contracts and contract disputes, workers compensation, personal injury, and business litigation; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader among his peers, Larry Trail was a past president of the Rutherford/Cannon Bar Association, a Charter Member and Master of the Jackson American Inns of Court, a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, and a two-term member of the Board of Professional Responsibility for the Supreme Court of Tennessee, serving on the Ethics Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trail was a member of the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Trial Lawyers' Association, and the Tennessee Defense Lawyers' Association, in addition to the Tennessee Bar Association, which he served on numerous boards and panels; and

WHEREAS, seeking to aid his fellow citizens and work for the greater good for all Tennesseans, Larry Trail sought election to the Tennessee Senate in 2000, winning a four-year term to serve the people of Rutherford, Bedford, and Moore counties of the 16th Senatorial District; and

WHEREAS, as an esteemed member of the Senate for the 102nd and 103rd General Assemblies, from 2000 to 2004, Senator Larry Trail was Chairman of the Select Committee on Children and Youth and served with distinction as a member of the Education Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his August service in the Tennessee General Assembly, Senator Trail proved himself a thoughtful and dedicated member; he was respected by his colleagues for his expertise and insight on legal issues and admired for his hard work on and careful consideration of the legislation he sponsored on a range of topics, from ethics to education; and

WHEREAS, eager to offer himself for public service in a new capacity, Larry Trail won a triumphant victory on August 3, 2006, as he was elected to the office of Circuit Court Judge, Division II, District 16 for Rutherford and Cannon Counties; he was scheduled to have been sworn in on September 1, 2006; however he died suddenly on August 20, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Murfreesboro community, Mr. Trail was actively involved with numerous community organizations, including the United Way, and was a board member of the Arts Center of Cannon County, past chairman of the Rutherford County Foster Care Review Board, past board member of the Rutherford County Adult Activity Center, former member of the City of Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Board, and was an active member of the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a vocal champion for quality education, Larry Trail, along with his wife Sandra, was a strong supporter of his alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Trail attended Central Christian Church in Murfreesboro and World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trail is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra Y. Trail, and his devoted children, son Matthew, a Court Officer in the Circuit Court for Rutherford County and his wife Beta, and daughter Elizabeth, a State of Tennessee employee; his parents, Laura and Hershel Trail; and his sisters and their spouses, Charlotte and Doyle Duke, Cathy and Jack Hyatt, and Lisa Trail and Tim Tipps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Trail leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and our friend and former colleague; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Senator Larry Trail, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Senator Larry Trail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.